

As a subscriber of an independent Internet service provider, I urge the FCC to deny BellSouth's petition asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service. If this petition were to be granted, it would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to the independent ISPs. As a result, the independent ISPs would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise prices.

An even more serious threat is that it is possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for DSL service to the independent ISPs who would then be unable to sell DSL at all.